

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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WELCOME

Public Hearing for the Draft General Management Plan/ Wilderness Study/ Environmental Impact Statement

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The National Park Service

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- Established 1916
- 391 sites
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was added to the National Park system in 1970.



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Hearing Purpose:

- Review the new Preferred Alternative and other alternatives for management of the National Lakeshore
- Gather comments, especially on the Preferred Alternative and Wilderness Study
- Answer your questions



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Hearing Format

- Open House (30 minutes)
- NPS presentation (30 minutes)
- Question and Answer (30 minutes)
- Record comments (90 minutes)



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A General Management Plan Is:

- The broadest level of decision-making for national parks
- Sets management direction for 15-20 years
- Not intended to develop detail plans for specific areas
- No guarantee of future funding

**General
Management
Plan**



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What is a Wilderness Study?

- Describes various alternatives for wilderness
- Examines the impacts of each alternative
- Results in a wilderness proposal for some, none, or all of the lands considered

**Wilderness
Study**



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The Wilderness Act of 1964

- Passed to “assure that an increasing population...does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States...leaving no lands...for preservation and protection in their natural condition...” Section 2(a)
- Wilderness areas “...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historic use.” Section 4(b)



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The Act Defined Wilderness

- “...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable...” Section 2(c)
- “...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation...” Section 2(c)



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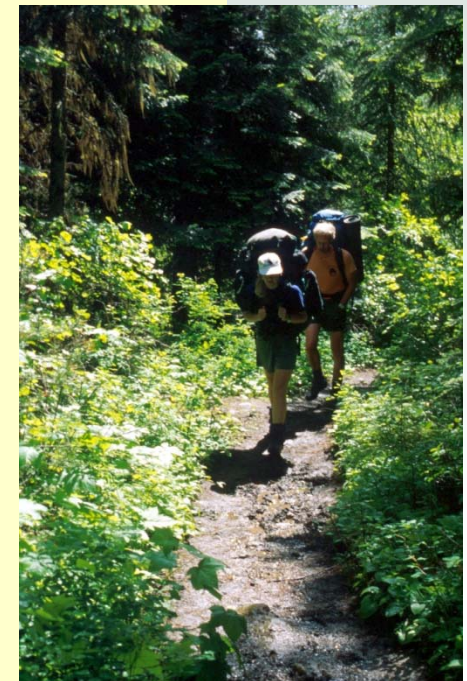
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Implications of Wilderness

- Each year more than 12 million people access wilderness for non-mechanized recreation such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, canoeing, and taking pictures
- Wilderness does not: prevent access, require specific conditions, or supersede the area's original purpose



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Planning Timetable:

	Planning Activity	Dates
1	Set the Stage for Planning	Fall 2005 to Spring 2006
2	Develop Alternative Management Concepts	Summer 2006 to Fall 2006
3	Develop Preliminary Alternatives	Winter 2006/2007 to Summer 2007
4	Develop Preferred Alternative and Prepare Draft General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/EIS	Summer 2007 to Early Summer 2008
5	Revise Draft and Prepare Final General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/EIS	Summer 2008 to Fall 2008
6	Implement the Approved Plan	Winter 2008/2009 and beyond

We
Are
Here



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Public Input to Date:

Step 1 — Set the Stage for Planning

- Newsletters #1 & #2
- Feb. and March '06 public open houses

Step 2 — Develop Alternative Management Concepts

- Newsletter #3
- June '06 public workshops

Step 3 — Develop Preliminary Alternatives

- Newsletter #4
- May '07 public meetings



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How the GMP Pieces Fit Together

- **Management Zones** – describe different resource conditions and visitor experiences
- **Draft Alternatives** – explore a variety of visions for the National Lakeshore, including wilderness, by applying the management zones differently in each alternative



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high use zone

- Provides for visitor orientation, education, and other structured activities (such as ranger-led tours) for a large number of visitors
- Facilities are designed to accommodate large numbers of visitors
- Includes main visitor attractions



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experience history zone

- Managed primarily to preserve historic structures and landscapes
- Provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy and learn about historic sites
- Facilities accommodate moderate to high level of visitation

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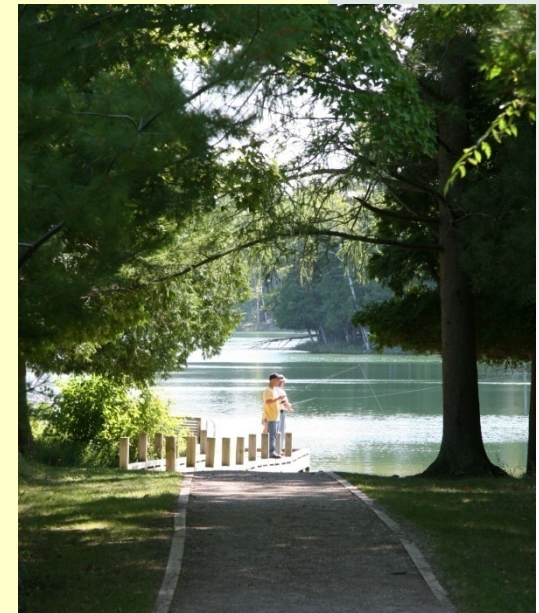
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recreation zone

- Provides a range of recreational opportunities, in both natural and cultural settings, for moderate numbers of visitors
- Facilities are designed to accommodate moderate numbers of visitors, and to blend into surroundings



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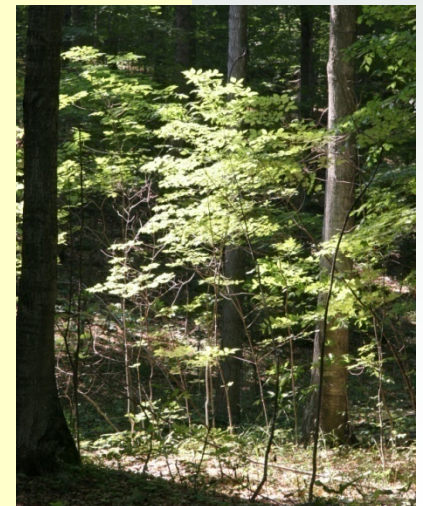
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experience nature zone

- Wildest, most natural zone
- Lower numbers of visitors enjoy primitive recreation on foot or in non-motorized watercraft
- Facilities are modest
- Only zone with areas proposed for wilderness



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No-action Alternative

Overview: reflects current conditions and activities

Wilderness: continue to manage lands from the 1981 *Wilderness Recommendation* (30,903 acres) to maintain their wilderness character

Natural and Cultural Resources: natural and cultural resource management programs continue

Roads: remain essentially the same

Trails and Other Facilities: remain essentially the same

Benzie Corridor: continue to purchase lands for future development of a scenic road



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All action alternatives (Preferred, A, B, and C):

- Establish desired future conditions, including preservation of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- Propose some wilderness, but continue vehicle use on county roads
- Establish broad preservation priorities by identifying fundamental natural, cultural and recreational resources
- Propose some common recreational developments (M-22/M-109 bike path, Bay-to-Bay trail, Bow Lakes trail)



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Preferred Alternative

Overview: Lakeshore valued primarily for preservation of natural resources, and for opportunities for visitor enjoyment of natural, cultural, and recreational resources in a scenic outdoor setting

Wilderness: 32,200 acres proposed – added Sleeping Bear Plateau, but removed some areas containing cultural resources or fragmented by roads

Natural Resources: natural conditions and experiences are emphasized, but to a lesser extent than in Alternative A



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Preferred Alternative (continued)

Cultural Resources: mix of preservation and rehabilitation possible, greatest extent of experience history zone

Roads: remain essentially the same, auto tours to Giant Cedars on South Manitou possible

Trails and Other Facilities: modest developments for recreation (upgrade Glen Lake picnic area and Crystal River access, add Bay-to-Bay and North Manitou campgrounds, improve Esch parking, possible day trips to North Manitou)

Benzie Corridor: continue to purchase lands for future development of a scenic road and/or a hike/bike trail



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Alternative A

Overview: Lakeshore valued primarily for conservation of natural resources

Wilderness: 33,600 acres proposed

Natural Resources: natural conditions and experiences emphasized

Cultural Resources: more preservation, less rehabilitation

Roads: essentially the same, except for closure of two NPS roads (Tiesma and South Manitou farm loop)

Trails and Other Facilities: modest improvements to support backcountry recreation

Benzie Corridor: cease land acquisition, recommend removal from Lakeshore

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Alternative B

Overview: Lakeshore is valued primarily for its recreational opportunities in scenic outdoor settings

Wilderness: 14,400 acres proposed (N. Manitou)

Natural Resources: recreation emphasized; less emphasis overall on natural conditions

Cultural Resources: mix of preservation and rehabilitation

Roads: essentially the same

Trails and Other Facilities: modest additions or developments for recreation

Benzie Corridor: continue to purchase lands for future development of a scenic road



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Alternative C

Overview: visitor use concentrated in selected areas,
with natural conditions promoted elsewhere

Wilderness: 23,200 acres proposed

Natural Resources: natural conditions and experiences
emphasized in areas not proposed for concentrated
use

Cultural Resources: allows for the most rehabilitation

Roads: remain essentially the same

Trails and Other Facilities: Additions and developments
primarily in concentrated use areas

Benzie Corridor: continue to purchase lands for future
development of a hike/bike path



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Development of Preferred Alternative:

- Combines aspects of preliminary alternatives from Newsletter #4 based on public input received; “the best of the best”
- Preserves natural and cultural resources, yet provides a range of desired, appropriate visitor opportunities
- Allows some management flexibility for future decisions to be made with additional public involvement



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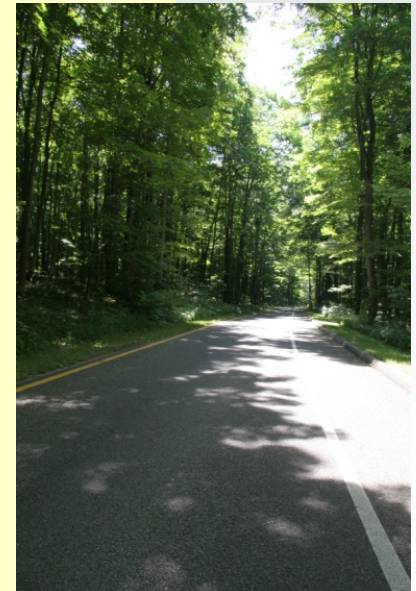
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What do you think about the Preferred Alternative?

- Are you fairly satisfied overall with the Preferred Alternative, including its wilderness proposal? If not, why not?
- How do you think the Preferred Alternative could be improved?
- Are there aspects of the other alternatives that you think should be added to the Preferred Alternative?
- Public comment closes on June 13



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For Your Reference

www.nps.gov/slbe

- *Draft General Management Plan/ Wilderness Study/ Environmental Impact Statement*
- Click to Comment (through June 13)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Summary of Public Comment
- Web Forum – On-line Discussion
- Other GMP/WS Documents



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Public Hearings

Tuesday, June 3, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Platte River Elementary School

Wednesday, June 4, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Hagerty Center, Traverse City

Thursday, June 5, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Glen Arbor Township Hall



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Format for Public Hearing

- Sign up for speaker number.
- Speakers will be announced. Raise your hand and staff will assist you to the microphone.
- Each speaker has 3 minutes.
- Time Reminders – **Yellow** - 30 seconds left
Red - time's up, please be seated
- People who wish to speak may sign up at any time. We will accommodate as many speakers as possible.
- A second court reporter is available for those who wish to comment without speaking in public.